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December 27, 2001

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

File: ETH-1615
Inventor(s): Joseph H. Contiliano, J. Jenny Yuan and Kevor S. Tenhuisen
Title: Polymer-Based Orthopedic Screw and Driver System with Increased Insertion Torque Tolerance and Associated Method for Making and Using Same
Assignee: Ethicon, Inc.

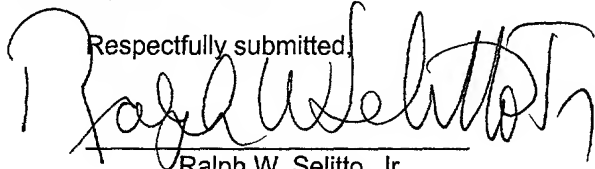
Sir:

Enclosed herewith please find the following documents in the above-identified application for Letters Patent of the United States:

- 1 Pages of Abstract
- 12 Pages of Specification
- 20 Number of Claims
- 2 Sheets of Drawings
- 1 Return-addressed Postcard
- 0 Assignment for Recording (Stapled to Form PTO-1595)
- 1 Declaration, Power of Attorney and Petition (**UNEXECUTED**)
- 1 Express Mail Certification (Stapled to this Letter)

Basic Fee	\$740.00
Additional Fees:	
Total number of claims (including multiple dependent claims) <u>20</u>	
Total number of claims in excess of 20, times \$18.00	\$ -0-
Number of independent claims <u>2</u>	
Number of independent claims minus 3, times \$78.00	\$ -0-
Fee for multiple dependent claims (\$260.00)	\$ -0-
TOTAL FILING FEES:	<u>\$740.00</u>

Please note that this application is being filed without an applicants' executed Declaration and filing fees. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) and (d), the United States Patent and Trademark Office is respectfully requested to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date that this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, it is respectfully requested that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d) be sent to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph W. Selitto, Jr.
Reg. No. 26,996

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of
JOSEPH H. CONTILIANO ET AL.

Serial No.: TO BE ASSIGNED

Filed: FILED HEREWITH

For: POLYMER-BASED ORTHOPEDIC SCREW
AND DRIVER SYSTEM WITH INCREASED
INSERTION TORQUE TOLERANCE AND
ASSOCIATED METHOD FOR MAKING
AND USING SAME

X

Box Patent Application

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

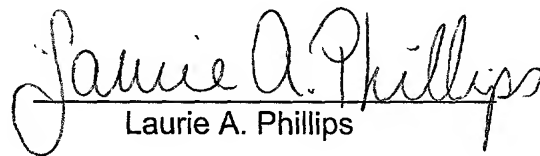
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

Sir:

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number: EL 724 276 980 US

Date of Deposit: December 27, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper and/or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Laurie A. Phillips